

OCT 10 1921 ✓

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SHAMS OF SOCIETY ✓

Photoplay in six reels ✓

Story by Walter McNamara ✓

~~Adapted~~
Scenario by Mary Murillo & Kenneth O'Hara ✓

✓ Directed by ~~John S. Stumar~~ Thos. B. Walsh ✓

Author of Photoplay (Under Sec. 62)
R-C Pictures Corporation of the U. S. ✓

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"SHAMS OF SOCIETY"

CAST

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Helen Porter..... | Barbara Castleton |
| Herbert Porter..... | Montague Love |
| Milton Manning..... | Macey Harlam |
| Mrs. Crest..... | Julia Swayne Gordon |
| "Mama" Manning..... | Anna Brody |
| Manning Sisters..... | Gladys Feldman Sallie Tysha |
| Lucile Lee..... | Lucille Lee Stewart |

Judge Harrington..... Edwards Davis
Reggie Frothingham..... Victor Gilbert

Author, Walter McNamara
Scenario, Mary Murillo
Director, Thomas B. Walsh
Cameraman, John S. Stumar

Synopsis

"Shams of Society"

An R-C Picture

From "Shams" by

Walter McNamara

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Complete Synopsis
"SHAMS OF SOCIETY"

Herbert Porter (Montague Love), a wealthy bachelor, married Helen Montgomery (Barbara Castleton), popular debutante, used to all the ease and luxury which a wealthy father could provide her. Porter had one weakness which he had never disclosed to Helen during the days of courtship. It was the belief, bordering almost on fanaticism, that a claim to an allowance had no place among the rights of a wife. He was not close-fisted with his plentiful funds. In fact, on the day of their return from the honeymoon he had opened accounts for Helen at all the smart shops. Yet he would not give her any money to spend.

One morning when he laughingly tossed her a sheaf of bills to check up, Helen tearfully told him again of how she was constantly being humiliated because he would give her no spending money.

"Helen", he replied, "I've told you repeatedly that it is against my principles. I pay all your bills without a murmur. Isn't that enough?"

A flare of defiance came into Helen's eyes.

"No", she returned, "because there are times when one must have cash. Why, only yesterday I was again humiliated by having Lucille pay for my luncheon."

"What do you want money for this time", her husband asked suspiciously. Helen was too hurt to put any zest into her reply:

"I merely wanted to buy you a birthday gift."

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Defeated, but totally unwillingly to admit it, Porter walked out of the room.

That afternoon Helen was with a group of women taking tea at the Ritz. Again she was mortified when the waiter came around with the bill and she had to pretend to be busy powdering her face -- while some one else paid the bill. Mrs. Crest, a woman of doubtful reputation who maintained her position in society by a series of subterfuges and intrigues, asked Helen to accompany her to Madame Pompini's who ran a fashionable shop. Behind her elaborate show room Madame had a very exclusive gambling resort for women. When Helen admired the frocks and said she could not afford them Mrs. Crest suggested that it would be easy to get some spending money at the gaming tables.

Helen, with her craving for money, was an easy victim. She left the place late that afternoon in debt five hundred dollars. In a few days Mrs. Crest was phoning her for the money. Not daring to tell her husband Helen conceived the idea of pawning some of her jewels. Heavily veiled she went to the offices of the Consolidated Investment Company. This was run by a smart young Jew named Milton Manning (Macy Harlam), but her preferred to go in society under the name of Milton Howard. None of his social associates knew that he was a loan broker. He was shrewd, affable, a smart dresser and welcomed in the best circles. A few days previous he had met Helen at the country club. With another couple they had enjoyed several games together. Then suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, Milton's cynical views of life found vent in a questionable remark addressed to Helen. Angrily she left him and went back to the club house.

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When Milton peering out of his private office, saw Helen come in with the bar pin to pawn, he formed a shrewd plan for revenge. He did not appear himself but summoned the clerk and instructed him to let Helen have three hundred dollars on the pin. She hurried home with it and paid it to Mrs. Crest that evening when the latter called ostensibly to borrow a book.

That evening, dining at an exclusive cafe with her husband and Judge Harrington (Edwards David), a friend of both of them, Helen suddenly sees Milton Howard approaching with some friends. Howard and Porter belong to the same club, so the two parties join. Porter urges Helen to dance with Howard when he asks her. Not knowing how to refuse Helen agrees and as they swing off to the lively music, Howard compliments her on her beautiful gown.

Next day Helen received a phone call from Mrs. Crest insisting on payment of the other two hundred dollars. Desperate, Helen summons an old clothes dealer and offers him several of her gowns, he in turn agreeing to pay her two hundred dollars. Among the gowns is the one she had worn when she danced with Howard at the cafe. Helen took the money and went to Madame Pompini's to pay her debt. Again the lure of the gaming tables caught her and she risked the few extra dollars which she had obtained from the clothes dealer on her gowns. Again she left the place in debt five hundred dollars.

At the Blaine reception the following evening the net of circumstances woven by the stubbornness of Herbert Porter began to close tightly about Helen. Who should enter the room but Mrs. Crest attired in the very gown which Helen had sold to the clothes dealer! In her confusion Helen looked up and met the mocking eyes of Milton Howard. He, too, had recognized the dress.

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Observing Helen's agitation Judge Harrington takes her to the conservatory and gets her to unburden her mind of the grief which has been occasioned her by Herbert's stubborn views. The judge promises her to use his influence in inducing Herbert to see the error he is making. Again Milton Howard seeks Helen, and again she spurns him.

The reception is being given for a Prince of India who is the possessor of some wonderful rings. These he exhibits to the guests who cluster round the table admiringly. From the doorway Howard is watching. He sees Helen leaning over the table, eyes fixed upon the rings. Quietly Howard reaches over to the electric light switch beside him and presses the button. The room is in darkness. When the butler turns on the light again one of the rings is missing.

Next morning in his loan office Howard waits for what he knows will happen. He had been in an alcove in the conservatory the night before and overheard Helen telling Judge Harrington of her need of money. He did not have long to wait. Soon a clerk entered and told him a lady was outside with a curious ring to pawn. Howard told him to show the lady in. When Helen entered and saw Howard she nearly fainted, then anger seized her. Calmly Howard told her she would be unwise to lose control of her temper under the circumstances. Realizing her position Helen begs him not to tell her husband. Unmoved Howard replied: "Only on one condition will I remain silent -- you must meet me tonight at seven-thirty here -- alone!"

The proposal was revolting to Helen, but quickly debating the alternative she chose to agree.

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That night her husband, won to a more sensible viewpoint by Judge Harrington, eagerly rushes home and presses into Helen's hand a check for five thousand dollars and tells her she is to have a regular allowance thereafter. Dully, Helen looks at the check -- then at the clock. It is nearly seven-thirty. She must keep her hated appointment, or Howard will tell her husband.

Stating that she has an appointment with Mrs. Crest, Helen leaves. A little hurt by her attitude in the face of his generosity Herbert prepares to spend a quiet evening at home. He picks up the evening paper, sees an account of a number of society women being arrested in a raid on Madame Pompini's shop. Mrs. Crest's name is among those listed. Herbert's suspicions are aroused. He follows Helen, sees her enter the office building of Milton Howard and come out accompanied by Howard. They get into a limousine and start toward the country, Herbert trailing them.

Finally the limousine stops in front of a pretentious suburban home in Westchester county. Crouched outside a window the infuriated husband, revolver in hand, sees all that goes on within. Helen and Howard enter the living room and Howard tells her she may as well remove her wraps. Contemptuous and cold Helen disregards him. Howard walks to a door and calls -- "Mother!" Amazed, Helen sees a sweet-faced, elderly Jewish woman enter. Howard introduces her to "Mama" Silverman (Anna Brody). A moment later his two sisters, Sallie and Gladys are also introduced.

"Now", continued Howard, "I want to tell you Mrs. Porter that I have brought you here for a purpose. I want you to tell my sisters what a sham and mockery our so-called modern society is. They

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aim to 'belong', but they do not know."

As the motive of Howard's campaign against her dawned on Helen she broke down. Putting her arms around the two girls she said "I can only say that complete happiness lies in our contentment with our homes. Always remember that the love of our own is far greater than the plaudits of the many.

"You envy me, yet I stand before you the unhappiest of women. You crave our so-called society. May God grant anything but that. It is sham -- all sham."

Howard then brings in Nina Burnstein and introduces her as his fiance.

Outside, Herbert Porter, is completely astounded. Pondering the situation, he goes in. Helen comes. He is quietly reading a book. She goes to him and puts her arms around him while she says demurely: "How does the book turn out?"

"I've just reached the part where they 'lived happily ever after!'" replied her husband in deep content.

THE END.

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OCT 10 1921

I herewith respectfully request the return of the following named motion picture films deposited to me for registration of copyright in the name of
R.-C. Pictures Corporation

SHAMS OF SOCIETY (6 reels)

Respectfully,

Fulton Brylawski

The R.-C. Pictures Corporation hereby
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picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright
Office as follows:

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OCT 18 1921

Bk. D

El Person

The return of the above copies was requested by the said company, by its agent and attorney, on the 10th day of October, 1921, and the said Fulton Brylawski for himself and as the duly authorized agent and attorney of the said company, hereby acknowledges the delivery to him of said copies, and the receipt thereof.

O.K.-M.F.T.
OCT 13 1921

Fulton Brylawski

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